

Montana Food & Agricultural Development Centers:

A network of assistance for Montana entrepreneurs

Have a product or business idea?

Are you looking to develop a Montana food, farm-based renewable energy, or other agriculture-related product or business? The Food and Agricultural Development program network has people and resources to help you.

What is a Food & Agricultural Development Center?

Four regional centers in Glendive, Joliet, Havre and Ronan work together as a network to provide **training, coaching & technical assistance:**

- Product development, testing, analysis
- Regulatory compliance training
- Food processing
- Business planning & development
- Market research
- Business networking
- Access to financing
- Cooperative development
- Education on industry dynamics & technologies



The centers also cooperate with providers outside the network to give clients access to services that the centers themselves don't provide.

"Localizing our food and energy supplies adds value that stays on our farms and in our rural and urban communities, and creates new possibilities for development and stewardship of our natural and human resources. It also reduces our dependence on increasingly centralized and uncertain global sources for food and fuel."

-- Ron de Yong, Director, Montana Department of Agriculture

Purpose of the centers:

1. To increase Montanans' capacity to produce food, farm-derived renewable energy, and other value-added agricultural products;
2. To retain in the state's local communities a greater share of consumers' expenditures for food, energy, and other value-added agricultural products;
3. To make the end products of Montana agriculture more accessible to Montanans and others.

How do I get started?

Contact the center nearest you first, or visit your local economic development organization for a referral.

The four centers are:

Bear Paw Development Corp.

48 Second Avenue, Suite 202
Havre, MT 59501
406.265.9226
plemer@bearpaw.org
Contact: Pam Lemer

Beartooth RC&D Area Inc.

604 West Front Street
Joliet, MT 59041
jbertolino@beartooth.org
(406) 962-3914
Contact: Joel Bertolino

Lake County Community Development Corp.

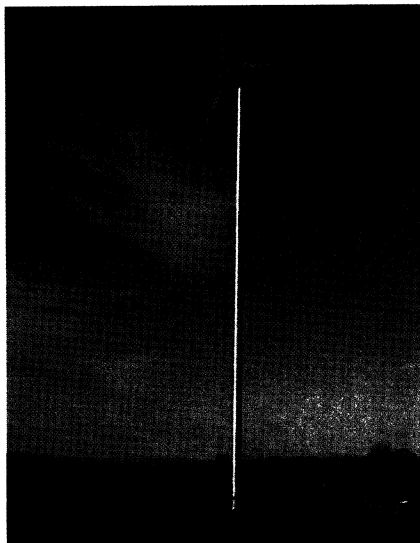
Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center
407 Main Street SW
Ronan, MT 59864
(406) 676-5901 x. 4
jant@lakecountycdc.org
Contact: Jan Tusick

Fourth center pending for FY 2012-13

Program history:

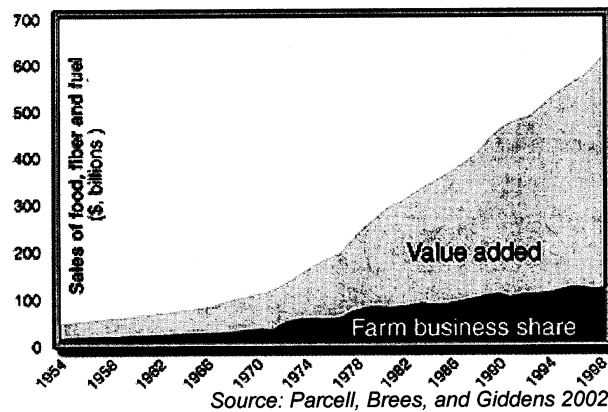
In 2009, the Montana Legislature funded a new generation of food and agricultural development centers equipped to help Montana's entrepreneurs capitalize on significant new agricultural market trends. These are trends in which most of the jobs created and value added to our agricultural products directly benefit Montana's communities.

Unlike previous federally funded centers, this program was designed in Montana for Montanans to meet the unique needs of our state's largest economic sector. It supports economic development that improves access to healthier food for our citizens, and reconnects our rural and urban economies.



AERO

Most of the value of US food, fiber, and fuel products at final sale is added after raw materials leave the farm. And most of the value of Montana's raw products is added after they leave the state.



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